

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 (Currently amended). A method for treating infections, tumors and autoimmune and inflammatory diseases treatable with human fibroblast interferon (interferon- $\beta$ ), comprising administering an effective amount of a polyol-human fibroblast interferon ~~interferon- $\beta$~~  conjugate having a polyol moiety covalently bound to Cys<sup>17</sup> of human fibroblast interferon ~~interferon- $\beta$~~  to a subject in need thereof.

2 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein said polyol moiety is a polyalkylene glycol moiety.

3 (Original). The method according to claim 2, wherein said polyalkylene glycol moiety is a polyethylene glycol (PEG) moiety.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the polyol-human fibroblast interferon ~~interferon- $\beta$~~  conjugate has the same or higher ~~interferon- $\beta$  activity~~ antiviral and antiproliferative activity as native human ~~interferon- $\beta$  fibroblast interferon~~.

Claims 5-22 (Cancelled).

23(New). A method for treating multiple sclerosis, comprising administering an effective amount of a polyol-human fibroblast interferon (interferon- $\beta$ ) conjugate having a polyol moiety covalently bound to Cys<sup>17</sup> of human fibroblast interferon to a subject in need thereof.

24(New). The method of claim 23, wherein said polyol moiety is a polyalkylene glycol moiety.

25(New). The method of claim 24, wherein said polyalkylene glycol moiety is a polyethylene glycol (PEG) moiety.

26(New). In a method for treating infections, tumors and autoimmune and inflammatory diseases treatable with human fibroblast interferon (interferon- $\beta$ ), which comprises administering an effective amount of human fibroblast interferon to a subject in need thereof, the improvement wherein the human fibroblast interferon is a polyol-human fibroblast interferon conjugate having a poly moiety covalently bound to Cys<sup>17</sup> of human fibroblast interferon.

27(New). The method of claim 26, wherein said polyol moiety is a polyalkylene glycol moiety.

28(New). The method of claim 27, wherein said polyalkylene glycol moiety is a polyethylene glycol (PEG) moiety.